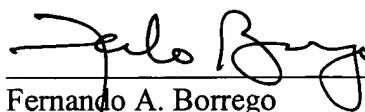


claims 1-10 remain pending in the application. A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached hereto in Appendix A. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Sept. 28, 2001



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